



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais,
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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4 January 2021

Deputy Réada Cronin
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 44491/20

Re: Camphill Dunshane, Brannockstown, Naas, Co Kildare

“To ask the Minister for Health the plans in place to support a community (details supplied) in its work to secure the short-term accommodation of its residents and ensure the earliest possible reopening; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Deputy Réada Cronin

Dear Deputy Cronin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your Parliamentary question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

This is an unprecedented emergency situation, which has been extremely difficult for everyone involved and Camphill Community of Ireland (CCoI) is committed to working with our community members and their families to ensure that they are provided with suitable alternative accommodation and supports. CCoI conduct routine building assessments, fire safety checks and Health and Safety audits, and control measures are put in place around any areas of identified risk across all our buildings. As part of our risk management processes a review of Teach na Greine, including a risk assessment, was conducted in October 2020 and control measures were put in place. Following this review Camphill's Safety and Risk Co-ordinator escalated a summary report to our Board and to the HSE, which set out the significant risks notwithstanding the control measures. The decision to close Teach na Greine was based on careful consideration of internal and external specialist advice and ratified by Camphill Board based on the overwhelming requirement to protect the safety and wellbeing of our residents. This issue was identified to HIQA by CCoI. The building requires vacant possession to complete the remedial works and it is our preference to reopen the home and we are actively seeking capital of approximately €300,000 to reopen the resident's home to them following the completion of these essential works.

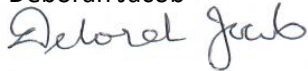
There has been ongoing engagement and dialogue with the families; HSE and HIQA on this matter and CCoI have been working to create a transition plan which will enable the CMSN's to be suitably accommodated for the period the unit is closed. From the initial contact with families on 25th November 2020 until 9th December 2020 CCoI's plan was to retain all residents at Dunshane however it soon became evident that this would increase anxiety and behaviours of concern due to the increased occupation of existing spaces. Camphill then readjusted planning to ensure alternative

options were offered to each community member. At no time were the residents at risk of transferring outside of CCol or returning home to their families for the duration of the closure. No resident was asked to take their belongings from the community prior to the Christmas holiday break on 23rd December 2020, all community members personal property is being transferred to their new communities by CCol as part of the transition process.

It cannot be underestimated how challenging it has been to source alternative accommodation within this short timeframe. The team have worked to identify alternative homes which are within the designated spaces, which have facilities that match their requirements, and ensuring that there is not a negative impact on those who already reside within the identified alternative accommodation. I am pleased to say that alternative full time residential places within CCol were offered to all 7 residents from the limited number of vacancies we have available prior to the Christmas closure and transition plans are well underway. As vacancies come up closer to a Community member's home location or by choice we can and will work with them and their families to move to a more preferred community.

I trust the above information is of use to you and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Deborah Jacob



Head of Service

Disabilities

Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow